Our fourfooted
friends
A publication of the Animal Rescue League of Boston
Winter 1997
Salute to Volunteers
Petoberfest '97 Photo Album
Pet-Proof Your Home for the Holidays
Create a Legacy of Kindness

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Jocelyn Bly and Michael Vogel share the holiday spirit with Dudley.

Cover photo by Bob Howard.

Our fourfooted friends

Volume 94, No. 4 Winter 1997

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Our fourfooted friends

(US ISSN 0030 6851) Published quarterly by the Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116-5221. Price $4.00 a year. Office of Publication, Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116-5221. Address all correspondence, editorial, subscriptions to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P. O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P. O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265. Second Class Postage has been paid at Boston, Massachusetts, and other mailing locations.

Printed on recycled paper with environmentally friendly inks.

A Message from the President

A Legacy of Kindness

At this season of the year, we wish to extend our best greetings and our gratitude for the financial and moral support we have received from our donors and friends. Without the support of such special friends, our efforts would not be possible.

Arthur G. Slade
President

During this season of giving, I would like to tell you about opportunities to create a legacy of kindness through a planned gift to the Animal Rescue League of Boston. This may be done in a number of ways, depending on your personal circumstances and preferences. Please realize that you do not need to have a large estate or great wealth to make a meaningful and lasting gift to the League.

Making a planned gift to the League—whether during your lifetime or through your will—is one of the most gratifying acts you can perform. You know that your gift will go to support an organization whose concerns and ideals you share.

Bequests are a real source of support for the League. They help us build and maintain a secure foundation and prepare for the challenges of future years.

There are a number of ways to include a charitable gift in your estate plans. For instance, a Charitable Remainder Unitrust allows you to collect income on your gift during your lifetime, with the remainder going to the League upon your passing. Through a gift of real estate with reserved life estate, you retain lifetime use of your home and bequeath it to the League upon your death. Perhaps the most common forms of deferred giving are outright and residuary bequests. Your gift can be unrestricted or earmarked for a specific purpose such as a program, facility or piece of special equipment. You may also restrict the use of your gift to income only, thereby creating a perpetual endowment for either a general or specific purpose.

If you are interested in making a planned gift, you should ask your attorney to help you prepare the appropriate documentation, preferably in consultation with the League's attorney, to ensure that your wishes are carried out.

The League is just over a year away from its 100th Birthday. Please consider this type of special gift to set us off to a rousing start in our Second Century of Caring for Animals.

Please give me a call or drop us a personal note so we may talk with you further about this great opportunity. We have a special brochure for you that tells the story of "Ways to Help Secure the Future of the Animal Rescue League of Boston."

Our best wishes for the New Year.

Loretta Barry with Chloe in happier times.

Rescue of the Quarter

A Final Act of Caring

Not all rescues have purely happy endings. This story ends in the death of a beloved cat named Chloe.

One Sunday night, Chloe was hit by a car on Main Street in Stoneham. Unfortunately many animals are injured outside, and it is the responsibility of every person to make sure that an animal at least dies with dignity and as painlessly as possible. This almost didn't happen in Chloe's case. Several passersby called local authorities that night and the next morning, but assistance was never sent to the severely injured cat. If anyone had gotten close enough, they might have seen Chloe's ID tag, which provided the name and phone number of her owner, Loretta Barry.

Help finally came for Chloe on Monday morning. Two young girls discovered the cat and were attempting to take it to safety. On her way to work, Animal Rescue League of Boston Law Enforcement staffer Jackie Louzan saw the girls, who were crying as they walked. She stopped and discovered the tragedy. Although the young girls spoke little English, Jackie conveyed to them that she could help the cat by showing a cat carrier and leaving her name and number on League stationery.

Chloe was brought to the League clinic at Boston headquarters. A message was left at Loretta Barry's home, and Chloe was given painkillers and fluids. Loretta arrived a few hours later, as soon as she heard the message. Unfortunately, Chloe's injuries were too extensive for her to survive. In fact, the cat had been unresponsive since Jackie picked her up. Sadly, Chloe had to be humanely euthanized. However, she was given dignity and comfort in the end, and Loretta, her loving owner, was able to say a proper goodbye. (We ask anyone finding an injured animal to call their local animal control officer or humane society such as the Animal Rescue League of Boston.)

A Veterinary
UPDATE
Winter 3

by Bosmat Gal, D.V. M.

Pet-proof your home for the holidays

City sidewalks, busy sidewalks this is holiday time. Children laughing, people passing dressed in holiday style. Curious, playful pets will soon be getting into trouble amidst the holiday chaos. Take a few moments to pet-proof your home and try to keep in mind that your furry family member needs special attention during this festive season.

The Christmas tree is beautiful but poses many potential problems for your pet. Thirsty pets will find that water from the tree will make them sick, hungry mouths won't like the tinsel or tiny ornaments they've mistaken for a treat, and pets may be shocked to find electrical cords are not chew toys. If possible, keep your pet away from the tree when you are not there to supervise.

Poinsettia, mistletoe and other plants such as English ivy are dangerous if ingested. Poinsettia produces a milky sap that is irritating to the skin and/or conjunctiva, or if ingested, irritating to the gastro-intestinal tract. Mistletoe contains chemicals that may cause nausea, vomiting and gastro-enteritis. Treatment usually is symptomatic and consists of maintaining fluid and electrolyte balance. English ivy ingestion can cause salivation with intense thirst, followed by nausea and vomiting, gastro-intestinal irritation with abdominal pain and diarrhea. An animal could even become comatose and die. There is no specific antidote for ivy toxicity. Symptomatic treatment and general nursing care are recommended. Please notify your veterinarian as soon as you suspect that your pet has come in contact with one of these plants.

Chocolate is toxic mostly to dogs, less to cats because of the markedly different eating habits of felines. Nevertheless, please keep chocolate away from all your animals. Chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine which can cause acute indigestion with vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain; increased urination, hyperactivity with occasional depression. Chocolate can affect the heart too, with heart beat irregularities; there is also a potential for hyperthermia, muscle tremors, seizures and coma. A little taste of turkey may be okay, but too much "people food" can make your pet sick, especially if it's too spicy or rich with oily gravy. Be careful with the bones!

The holidays are hectic and messy. You may have wrapping paper, ribbon, craft items, pin cushions, etc. strewn all over the place. A crazy kitchen usually accompanies the holidays, with foods spilt on the counter and poultry bones sitting on top of the trash. Please remember to clean up or close the door so your pet doesn't get into the wrong thing. You may want to consider using a crate for confinement when necessary.

Don't dress up your pet. It may seem cute to you, but it is stressful to animals and they could get injured trying to get out of costumes.

When picking out gifts for your loved ones, don't forget your animal friends. You do, however, need to be careful what gift you choose. Even some toys found in a pet store may be inappropriate if they have little pieces that could fall off and be ingested. Warning: do not let your cat play with string alone as it can be swallowed and cause intestinal blockage. There is debate as to whether rawhide is a healthy choice for dogs; while it does satisfy your puppy's natural urge to chew, it has also been found to break apart and when ingested may cause gastro-intestinal problems. Nylabones are the best type of bones for dogs because they are not ingested, and the nylon threads act as a dental floss, helping to remove food particles between the teeth and on the gum line. Don't forget, the best present of all is some quality time with you. Happy Holidays.

News from the front

"Why did I agree to this?" wonders Franklin Taylor, as he tests out the Zipline with the help of Joe Winslow (l.) and John Kloninger.

Team Building Days

The shelter staffs at the League have a difficult job, which is made easier by the support of their peers. To foster good working relationships, the League has introduced Team Building Days.

Last year, the Salem shelter began the tradition by having a Team Building Day to inaugurate their new manager, Laura Caruso. The six staff members spent the day at an indoor gymnasium in Newton playing games, problem solving, and learning to work together. One game had each person deciding what kind of animal they were, while another person protected them from balls being thrown at them. The favorite activity was to fit all staffers on a block of wood for three seconds. The day was a wonderful change of pace and a stress-free way to start a working relationship.

This October, the Boston staff of 25 people ventured out to Westwoods Day Camp in Stoughton. John Kloninger, a human resource consultant, led the group in team building exercises. Their goal was to learn to work together more efficiently, to provide stress relief, and of course to have fun. The games ranged from the difficult to the hilarious. The high point (pun intended) was the Zipline. Each person climbed up and took a turn on the high ropes course. Participants needed a little trust and a lot of guts to let go and allow themselves to fall, but they were rewarded with a rush of adrenaline and a sense of accomplishment. The staff came back relaxed, renewed, and with some wonderful shared memories.

November brought the Brewster Branch staff to the same gymnasium the Salem staff had visited. Five employees from Brewster tried their luck at the ball games and problem solving exercises. The staff reports that it was a fun and energetic day. Their favorite event was having to maneuver across the gym without touching the floor. Working together as a team proved to be enjoyable and rewarding.

LEAGUE PSA Wins Awards and Air Time

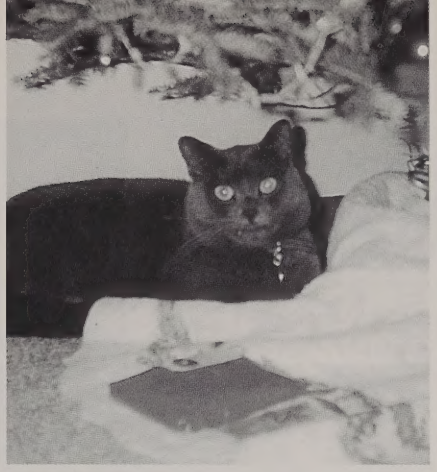
The recently produced television public service announcement for the Animal Rescue League of Boston has acquired many accolades. Norwood resident Janet Haugh donated her services by producing the popular and poignant PSA which highlights pet adoption.

The awards for "Best PSA Produced" were received from: Massachusetts Cable Television Commission; Media One; and New England Women in Cable and Telecommunications. The PSA is currently being aired by local network affiliates and cable stations. The League salutes Ms. Haugh for her achievement and thanks her for her kind efforts on behalf of our animal friends waiting for kind, loving homes.

Brat the Cat Remembered

Joe DiStefano truly loved his cat, Brat. Last year, his faithful feline companion was found mutilated in a wooded area near his home on Hazel Street in Peabody. Despondent, yet determined to raise public awareness of animal cruelty, Joe organized a walk in Brat's memory. The event raised $3,000 for the League's Law Enforcement Department. A reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone responsible for this heinous crime. Joe shares a personal message with our readers:

"As I looked over my shoulder toward the back of the line as the Walk began, I was overwhelmed by what my eyes were seeing. The site was a mass of people united in spirit to raise awareness of animal cruelty in honor of my dear and special friend. The widespread support of the event was a testament to the cause: 75 people and 15 dogs from 25 cities were represented at the Walk. Between the walkers, their pledge sponsors, and



Joe Distefano's beloved Brat.

those who donated to the Brat Memorial Fund, people from more than 50 communities were involved.

Every person and supporter involved in the Walk contributed to its success: the walkers and their pledge sponsors, the hundreds of merchants and veterinarians who posted publicity flyers, John Frassica (WNTN radio), radio stations which aired announcements of the Walk, Beth Dinan (North Shore Sunday), Kelley Bouchard (Salem Evening News) and others in the news media, family and friends who volunteered, and the Animal Rescue League of Boston. You all have my gratitude from the bottom of my heart.

Planting a tree in memory of Brat. (L to R) Joe Distefano is joined at the League's Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham by employees Mike Thomas, Laura MacFeeley, and Thom White.

And thank you to my dear beloved Brat. The memory of you fills me with strength and determination and inspires me to be a voice for you and for those who cannot speak for themselves."

1998 Animal Photography Contest

Is your pet a ham in front of the camera? Is he or she waiting for a chance to become the next Morris or Lassie? Take the first step by entering your pet in the 1998 Animal Photography Contest.

All amateur photographers are encouraged to enter (no professionals, please). A panel of judges will choose the winners, who will be announced during Be Kind to Animals Week (May 3 - 10). Winners will receive gift certificates for photographic equipment and supplies in the amounts of $150, $100 and $75. Separate prizes will be awarded for juniors (under 18) and adults. All photos will be displayed during Be Kind to Animals Week at one of our shelters and the winning photos will appear in the summer issue of Our Fourfooted Friends.

Photos submitted may be black and white or color. Entries can be photos of animals alone or with people and/or props. The photos must be unretouched and should be enlarged to approximately 5" x 7" or 8" x 10". Please keep your negatives in case we need them for reproduction. Sorry, but no photos will be returned. All photos submitted become the property of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. The entry deadline is March 31, 1998.

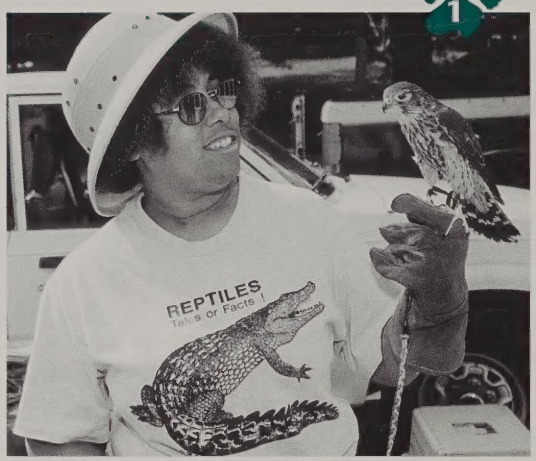
To enter: Affix a printed label or sticker on the back of each entry with the photographer's name, address, phone number and age, if he or she is under 18. Do not write directly on the back of the photo, since a pen or sharp pencil might damage the surface of the print. Mail entries by March 31, 1998 to: Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117, Attn: Animal Photo Contest. For further information, call (617) 426-9170.

Petoberfest 1997

Petoberfest '97 Scrapbook

The crisp autumn air welcomed over 1,000 animal lovers to Petoberfest '97, held in October at the League's Pine Ridge Animal Center. Thanks to friends and members, this annual event raised $7,000 to benefit animals in the League's care. The generosity of those who attended as well as those who donated goods or services was greatly appreciated. We invite you to share our scrapbook of memories.

Save the Date! Petoberfest '98 will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3. If you are interested in participating in planning the event or donating goods or services, we want to hear from you! Volunteers, please call Rena Bly at 617-426-9170 ext. 126. Those with general inquiries may contact Sonia Beals at ext. 119. Please join us!



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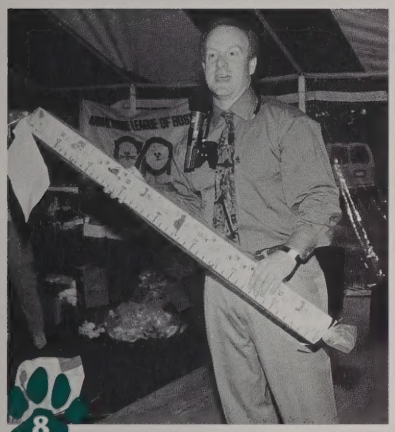

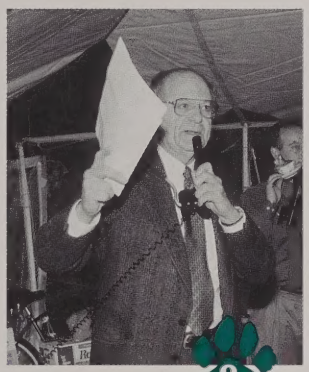

1. *Marla Isaac of Biological Graphic Arts introduces a bird of prey during a humane education presentation.*

2. *Santa's helper Mike Thomas and Beagle friend pose for a festive photo opportunity. Santa reports that all animals who sat on his lap have been very good boys and girls this year!*

3. *Petoberfest visitors browse among craft tables in search of special treasures for their animal friends.*

4. *Cousins Erica Shear (top) and Joycelyn Bly proudly display their painted faces.*

5. *This won't hurt a bit. Farrier Joe Borowick prepares to shoe Sophie Romanow of Westwood.*

6. *Holli Cole of Dedham and her Boston Terrier, "Nichole" were awarded first place in the pet show. What a team!*

7. *The auction crowd eagerly anticipates the next item for bid.*

8. *Auctioneer Mark Shear takes bids on a child's growth chart.*

9. *Auctioneer Mike Berman explains the rules of bidding. The auction raised over $2,000 for the League. Services were donated by Mr. Berman and his partner Mark Shear.*

Thank you to the following sponsors of Petoberfest.

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Henry A. Berman & Sons (Auctioneers)
Robin Pawlak (Petoberfest Logo Designer)

Humane Award Nominations Welcome

We are currently seeking nominations for people and pets to be honored at our 1998 Humane Awards. If you know of an animal who helped a person or a person who went out of their way to help an animal, please let us know.

The 1998 Humane Awards will be presented during Be Kind To Animals Week in May. Last year's awards included a man who rescued a dog left dying on the side of a road and a dog who awakened her owner to alert him of a fire, thereby saving her human as well as her animal family.

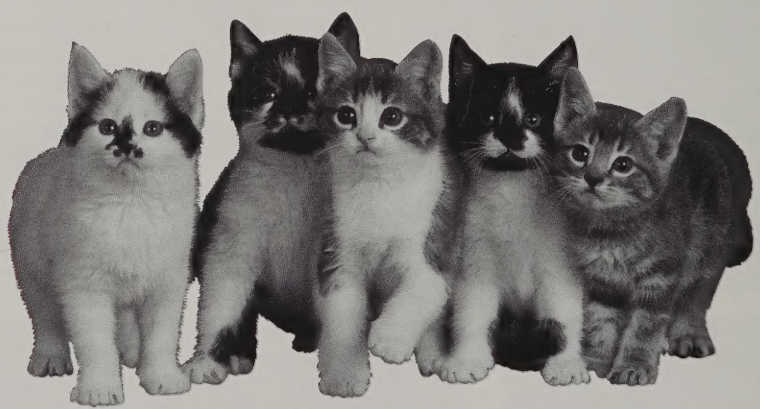
To make a nomination, please send us the following information: your name, address and phone number; the name, address and phone number of the person involved; the name, address and phone number of the animal and animal's owner involved; and a short description of why these individuals should receive a Humane Award. Please send your nomination by March 31, 1998 to Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117, Attn: Humane Awards.

My Dog Can Do That!

Looking for more ways to train Rover? You may want to check out *My Dog Can Do That!* a highly interactive, challenging, and exciting board game that you and your dog can play together!

My Dog Can Do That! is a clever method of teaching your dog new skills and tricks. The game comes complete with game board and beginner, intermediate and advanced playing cards. You can move forward on the board if your dog is able to complete a specific task in less than 30 seconds.

Don't think you are going to be led through this game blind—*My Dog Can Do That!* includes a training manual that discusses the proper technique to perfecting a specified skill. This reward-based training method is an easy and fun way of learning dog obedience. *My Dog Can Do That!* may be purchased by contacting the ID Store, P.O. Box 442, MT. Prospect, IL 60056-0042. e-mail: stuntmastr@aol.com.



Give Gift Certificates And Let Your Loved Ones Pick Out Their Own Animal Friend

It's that time of year again. You are making a list and checking it twice trying to come up with the perfect gifts for your family and friends.

While pets make a wonderful addition to your life, they do not make good gifts. Animals should not be given as a surprise or brought to their new home in the midst of holiday chaos. A quieter time makes an easier transition for the animal. In addition, every member in a household needs to be ready to accept a pet into the home.

The Animal Rescue League has gift certificates for sale to present in place of an animal. We invite the recipient to come back after the holidays with the entire household to carefully pick out a special furry family member.

Pine Ridge Volunteer Brenda Weinstein spends quality time with "Duffy" as he waits for a loving home.

We Salute Our Volunteers

by Sonia Beals

"Spread funshine." That's what motivational speaker Valla Dana Fotiades advised League employees at a recent training seminar. She could have been describing the increasing legion of volunteers at the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Almost 100 strong, their smiling faces, able hands and compassionate manner have endeared them to the staff and most importantly, to the animals waiting for adoption.

In place since October 1996, the program has been managed by Volunteer Coordinator Rena Bly. Having a background in psychology, teaching and social work has prepared Rena for her multifaceted duties. "Meeting all of these incredibly motivated and devoted individuals has been truly inspiring," Rena says. "I'm amazed at their desire to make a difference." After a thorough and effective screening process, Rena tries her best to place volunteers in their areas of interest at various League locations.

In addition to recruiting volunteers for the shelters, administrative assistance, and special events, Rena oversees community outreach programs. She has implemented team volunteering with parents and their children, invited students from Boston's Bay Cove Academy to earn school credit as interns, instituted a teen parent volunteer program, and supervised special needs students from the Carter School in Boston.

The students from Carter are instrumental in preparing cat litter boxes for the shelter and adoption centers. According to Boston Assistant Shelter Manager Hugh Mulligan, "Each cat may use two boxes per day. Thanks to these caring and able youngsters, the burden of taking the time to make and fill the boxes has been removed from an extremely busy staff." Denise O'Donovan, an occupational therapist at Carter, appreciates the opportunity to have her students visit the League. "The benefits are twofold," she says. "What the students do helps the League, but they also receive real life work experience and get the opportunity to leave the classroom setting, ride public transportation, and enhance their motor skills. Most importantly, they have the key element of visiting with the animals." Students from the school have a wide range of disabilities including visual or hearing impairment, cerebral palsy, autism and behavior disorders.

"I am in complete agreement and am in sync with the League's mission and goals."

Denise Tauro, Arlington

"I enjoy having the opportunity to turn people around on the issue of spaying and neutering."

Kellie Bryan, Mattapan

"I chose to intern at the League because I love being around the animals."

Keon Jones, Jamaica Plain

"Volunteering at the League is a worthwhile endeavor for animal welfare. I have referred many neighbors to Pine Ridge for adoptions."

Brenda Weinstein, Newton

"One student who is normally loud and aggressive does not display the negative behavior around the animals. It's almost as though there is a calming effect taking place," says O'Donovan. Since last spring, the Carter School has been sending two groups twice a week to the League. The groups will increase to five in the near future.

Denise Tauro, an employee at Scudder, Stevens and Clark in downtown Boston, is a recent special events volunteer. The Arlington native performed her initial volunteer hours staffing a booth and providing information on the League at the Pet Expo, held at the Bayside Exposition Center. Denise chose the League because, "I love animals and I'm at a point in my life where volunteering fits in and I feel like I can make a commitment."

Special events volunteers like Denise are instrumental in keeping the League's calendar of events current and operational. By assisting in the planning and implementation of events, this troop of volunteers provides valuable education to the public and promotes awareness of the League.

Kellie Bryan of Mattapan is another special events volunteer who chose to work at the League because her three cats, "Abby," "Fergal" and "Caramel," are alumni of the Boston adoption center. "I've worked at three rabies clinics, Petoberfest and Pet Expo and I volunteer in the Boston shelter on Tuesday evenings," says Kellie. "I so enjoy spending time with the animals as well as watching people interact with their pets."

Volunteers are active at each League shelter location. In fact, according to Rena, the Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham is currently at volunteer capacity. Assistant Shelter Manager Cheryl Howe says, "Our volunteers provide a very important service. Not only do they brighten our days when they breeze into the office, they also are able to socialize with our animals in adoption." In addition to socialization, volunteers in Dedham walk the dogs, feed the animals and separate the blanket and towel donations.

Brenda Weinstein and her daughter Rebecca have been volunteering at Pine Ridge for almost one year. "Rebecca's the one who took the initiative to volunteer," says Brenda. "We work together. I take care of the dogs and my daughter looks after the cats." The Weinsteins devote several hours per week to the League and enjoy giving the animals as much attention as possible. Brenda admits to a "constant desire" to spread the word that there are animals in need of loving homes.

Kelly Estevez has been volunteering at Pine Ridge for two months while working on her GED at the

Thanks

to our Volunteers

1. *Volunteer Coordinator Rena Bly introduces a friend from the Carter School to "Barkley."*
2. *"What would you like to know about the League?" Kellie Bryan is ready to greet patrons at the Pet Expo.*
3. *Denise Tauro at her first event as a volunteer for the League. "May I interest you in a brochure?"*
4. *Kelly Estevez puts adoption candidate "Ginger" through her paces as they stroll the grounds at Pine Ridge.*
5. *Shelter agents appreciate the helping hands of the students from the Carter School. Students prepare a multitude of much needed cat litter boxes.*

Willet School. Kelly "enjoys feeding the horses and playing with the puppies" when she's not busy cleaning cages, changing cat litter boxes or walking the dogs. "I volunteer three hours per day, Monday through Thursday. My son Emilio loves to come with me and see the animals."

Volunteers can be found in almost every department at the Animal Rescue League. Public Relations Associate Laurel Wellman is able to work more effectively with the help of volunteers such as Keon Jones from Bay Cove Academy or Volunteer of the Year Lubav Agranov. Laurel says, "It's nice to see volunteers who are so enthusiastic and willing to help!" Thom White, director of the League's law enforcement department, appreciates the efforts of his volunteer, Jennifer Safrey-Hoyt. "She enters important data into the computer, has created brochures, and assists with filing and general office duties that are time consuming. We really appreciate her time."

When asked what the goals are for the future of the League's volunteer program, Rena leans back into her chair and smiles. "Ideally, as we approach our centennial in 1999, I would like to envision at least 300-400 volunteers who will be able to organize and run events, as well as actively participate in all daily operations side-by-side with employees. Volunteers have so much to offer and we need to utilize their skills to the fullest potential. I would also like to expand community outreach programs to the elderly, provide volunteers for after-school programs, and implement a volunteer program for singles."

If you are interested in volunteering at the Animal Rescue League of Boston, please contact Rena Bly at 617-426-9170, ext. 126. Please be patient. Rena will return all calls and correspondence. There may be an initial waiting list for applications and mandatory orientation meetings. Some of the volunteer positions include: Animal Care/Socialization; Special Events; Adoption Center Greeter; Humane Education Speaker; Pet Visitation/Animal Assisted Activities; Office Assistance; and Community Outreach. We invite you to join us in our efforts to provide comfort and welfare to our animal friends!

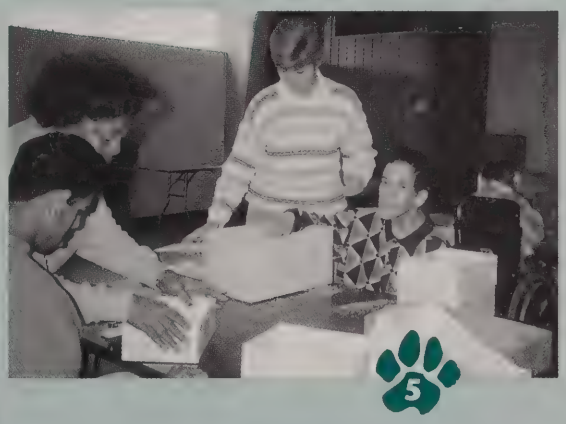
If you would like to become a volunteer or would like information on the volunteer program, please call Rena Bly at (617) 426-9170 ext. 126.

"My two-year-old son Emilio and I love animals. I would like to have my own animal shelter some day."

Kelly Estevez, Norwood

"The League provides real-life experience as well as valuable interaction with animals. Children react positively when properly introduced to animals."

Denise O'Donovan, Carter School, Boston



Animal Fri

A special feature for our younger readers

'Tis the Season of Giving

by Alan Cunningham

When I visit schools, conduct tours, or deal with our young readers in some way, it is quite common for them to ask what they can do to help animals. Being a person who is full of holiday spirit and genuinely concerned for the well-being of others, it does my heart good to witness the compassion exhibited by this future generation of citizens.

Since this is the season to show we care about each other and all living things (this should be the case every season), now is an ideal time to address the issue of helping others—in this case, our animal friends. What follows is a number of suggestions for how we can all help those who can't always help themselves and/or have little control of their fate.

Direct Care Items

Our fluffy and furry friends can always use collections of canned foods, dry foods and treats, cat litter, and biscuits. All one needs to do is designate one or more locations as drop off spots and supply some sort of box to hold donations. This works well at schools, community centers, church youth groups and 4-H.

Creative Crafts

If you browse through several craft books, you may find ideas for homemade toys and snacks for pets. Please be sure any toys are safe and entertaining for the type of pet you have in mind. While on the subject of toys—a personal favorite subject, just ask my children—remember there are other sources of entertainment you can collect for our animal friends. Some of these include empty thread spools, paper bags, and tennis balls. (Check out local tennis clubs for surplus.)

Recyclable Collection

Just as with food stuffs, this requires boxes placed in predetermined locations, posters or flyers to let folks know what you are doing, and cash-in on your bounty.

Blanket/Towel Drives

Any place where there are animals housed there is a HUGE need for both of these items. There is nothing like a nice warm blanket to curl up in for warmth and security or that squeaky-clean feeling one gets after a nice bath. Blankets, unless soiled, stay with the pets and even accompany them to their new homes to provide a feeling of familiarity. Towels are a must for drying pets after baths, which all animals receive if they are soiled, in need of grooming, or have signs of external parasites. Regular brushings will keep our pets looking spiffy. (Do not attempt if you have fish!!) These items can be collected the same way that food and recyclables are.

Fundraising

In addition to collecting cans and bottles, classrooms have set up penny and coin jars, and organized bake sales, craft fairs, and even more elaborate and ambitious undertakings. (see the Summer 1997 issue of *Our Fourfooted Friends*—Friend of the Quarter.)

Animals Around Us

Although it probably doesn't need to be said to our young animal lovers, never forget that your kindness and compassion for animals should start in and around your own home. Providing outside feeding stations for feathered and furry critters with which we share our yards is a wonderful gesture of thoughtfulness. Time spent with our own pets is as rewarding an expression of giving as all of those that precede this—and our pets love us for it!

ends

Letters to Gretel

Dear Readers,

I am honored to take over the page which belonged to my dear friend Kory. I hope that I can provide answers to questions readers may have pertaining to important animal topics.

To introduce myself, I am Gretel, the rabbit. As you can probably tell by my size (look at my picture), I am a Netherland Dwarf. I only weigh a couple of pounds and am one of smallest kinds of rabbit you can get.

I was adopted from the Animal Rescue League of Boston's Brewster branch in February 1996. I now reside in the North Shore and am a house rabbit, for which I am thankful. I don't have to worry about getting frost bitten in the winter or horse-fly bitten in the summer. If I did live outside, however, I would hope to have a rabbit hutch with an enclosed area to protect me against the elements of the great outdoors.

I am completely content during the day. In my cage I have my favorite toy to play with and my "blankie" to lie on. I also have fresh water, plenty of food, and Timothy hay to last me throughout the day. Sometimes I am allowed to "work" for the day. I visit the elderly at nursing homes and children at local schools and sometimes I do cover shots for magazines (check out the Fall issue of Our Fourfooted Friends). In the evening I am allowed to roam the house and play with my three cat friends. We all get along splendidly (that is because they know who is boss!!). My human friends have to keep a close eye on me so I don't chew on wires or furniture. I am also litter-box trained—this means nothing is left behind when I am out!

Being a rabbit is really great—that is if you are really loved and cared for properly.

Anyway, enough about me, I would love to hear from you!

Hey Kids!

Do you have questions for Gretel? Write in and if your question gets published in *Our Fourfooted Friends* magazine, you'll receive a free Animal Rescue League of Boston t-shirt. Send your questions to:

Questions
Letters to Gretel, The Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

friends of the quarter

Thanks to the diligent work of Julia Randall, Abigail Bargende, and Greer Karlis (l - r) the animals at League shelters will be cozy and warm this winter.

Three dedicated young girls from Cadette Girl Scout Troop 4842 in Hingham have been working hard on behalf of our animal friends.

Julia Randall, Abigail Bargende, and Greer Karlis organized a towel and blanket drive for the animals at the League. The girls put up posters in various businesses, solicited contributions of towels, blankets and sheets from merchants and hotels, and asked family and friends to help out.

Their drive was quite successful and the girls earned the Cadette Girl Scout Silver Award, which required a two-year commitment to our worthy cause. Even with that task completed, the girls' love of animals spurs them to continue to collect towels and blankets for the League. Thank you so much Julia, Abigail and Greer for your unselfish devotion.

If you or someone you know has been performing good deeds on behalf of our animal friends, send us a photo and letter with all the details! If we publish your story, we'll send you a League t-shirt! Send entries to:

Friend of the Quarter
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117
Participants must be twelve years of age or younger.

Pets in

1.

"Nica" was quite timid when she joined Carol Bradford's family in Framingham. Things have certainly changed. " 'Nica' gets invited to go wherever we go because she's so enjoyable to be around," writes Carol. "We recently started our third level of dog school because she's such an eager student."

2.

Believe it or not Gurley, an American Stafford Bull Terrier, has taken on the role of mama cat to the new kitten in the home, Max. Priscilla Drew of Marblehead tells us Max sleeps with the big dog. Gurley also plays with Max and even washes him.

3.

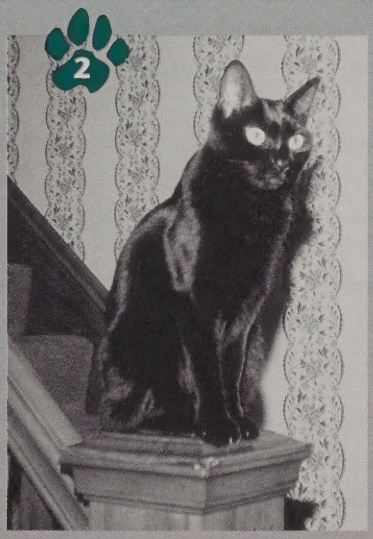
" 'Shadow' is a wonderful companion to us," says Rose McKechnie of Natick. He is adjusting very well and "we just love him."

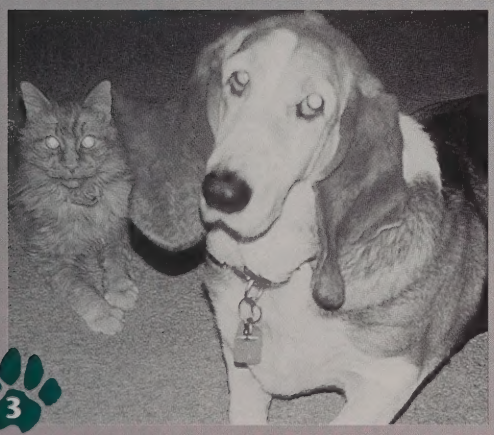
4.

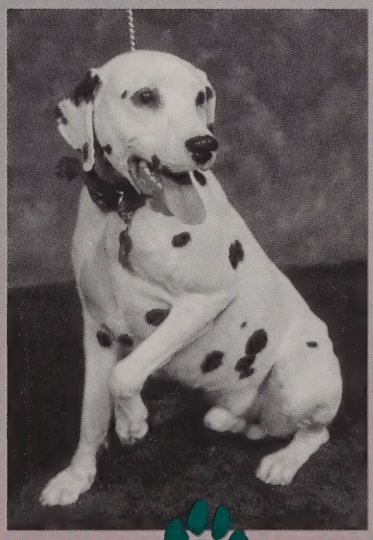
"Daisy" was adopted along with her feline friends, "Joon" and "Princess," four years ago from the Boston Shelter. "They are friendly, affectionate and basically wonderful," according to Leslie Kramer, and Karl, Rebecca and Jared Ackerman of Medford.

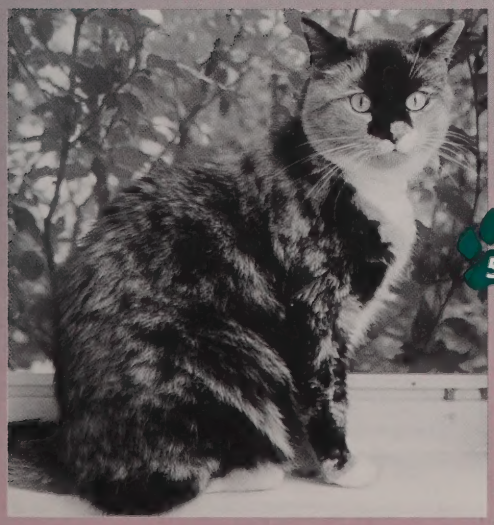
the Picture

Gone But Not Forgotten









1. *"Pookie"*

"Pookie" was the Salem Shelter office cat for 15 years. Many will remember her for her unique disposition. She made many friends over the years, greeting people from her perch on the office counter. "Pookie" is gone, but will most definitely not be forgotten.

2. *"Samantha Velvet"*

"Samantha Velvet," cherished cat of Helen Gates of Winchester, "slept under the covers with (Helen) and was great company." She is still missed and remembered fondly nine years after her death.

3. *"Sandy" and "Molly"*

18-year-old, Sandy (cat) and 8-year-old, Molly (dog) were pals for a long time. Frank and Joan Terra of Marshfield will never forget this lovable pair.

4. *"Tattoo"*

"Tattoo," beloved dog of Denise and Kenneth Sullivan of Dedham, was especially devoted to Mr. Sullivan and they went everywhere together. No one can take the place of this special friend.

5. *"Velvet"*

"Our Precious Little Velvet, You gave so much and asked for so little. You always made us smile. Devoted and loving to the end, you'll always have a special place in our hearts. We'll always love you," eulogize Carol and Bob LaFleur.

Pet Loss Group

The loss of a beloved pet can be a difficult experience. The League is now offering support services to the public. If you are interested in participating in a group or have questions about pet loss, please call Marcia Lowry Maloney, LMHC at 617-426-9170 ext. 430.

Sit Up & Beg

The staff at the League has developed the following "wish list" of items that would add to the safety, care, or comfort of our animal friends. If you would like to donate any of these items, or contribute toward the purchase of a piece of equipment, please call 617-426-9170.

Towels and Blankets

Used to line cages for comfort and warmth (especially important in these winter months.)

Cat and Dog Toys (still in packaging)

Used to help reduce the stress level of the animals while in the shelter.

9" Television/VCR combo

Would be used by Education, Volunteer and Public Relations departments to spread the word about the League and its work; $350.

Polaroid Camera

Would be used to photograph animals available for adoption; $40

Snyder Cage Dryer

Would be used to dry animals after baths; $1875

Refrigerators

Full-size: Would be used to store vaccines and test kits; $500 and/or
Mini-size: Would be used to store food for exotic animals; $150

Business Owners/Managers to Display Donation Boxes

For more information please call 617-426-9170 ext. 109.

Sit Up & Beg Thanks

We would like to gratefully thank the following friends for their generous contributions:

Rob Clifford and Gayle Saks of Triple Sow Cow Productions, Newton, recently organized a party to benefit The Horizons Initiative and The Animal Rescue League of Boston. The party, "A Hard Act to Follow" raised $625 for the League.

Thanks to the many thoughtful animal lovers who take time to stop at our shelter locations to drop off blankets and towels. Your kindness provides comfort and warmth.

Show your support

and help spread awareness of the Animal Rescue League of Boston by wearing and using these new League items!

All of these promotional items may be purchased at League locations in Boston, Brewster, Dedham and Salem, or may be ordered by mail.

Ceramic Coffee Mug
$3.00 ea.

Blue Ribbon Pin
$5.00 ea.

Tote Bag
$12.00 ea.

T-Shirt (S, M, L, XL)
$10.00 ea.

Children's (S, M, L)
$7.00 ea.

Sweatshirt (S, M, L, XL)
$18.00 ea.

Children's (S, M, L)
$15.00 ea.

Sweatpants (S, M, L, XL)
$18.00 ea.

Please send me:

Quantity	Item	Size	Cost
Total *(Please add $3.00 for shipping and handling for orders $10 and over or if ordering two or more ceramic mugs.)*			

NAME

STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of $ _____ made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston. (Please remember shipping and handling charge if applicable.) Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Mail to: **Animal Rescue League of Boston**
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

A Holiday Reminder To Pet Owners

The season's teeming with demands
Each day replete with chores
A hall to deck with holly
A wreath to grace the door

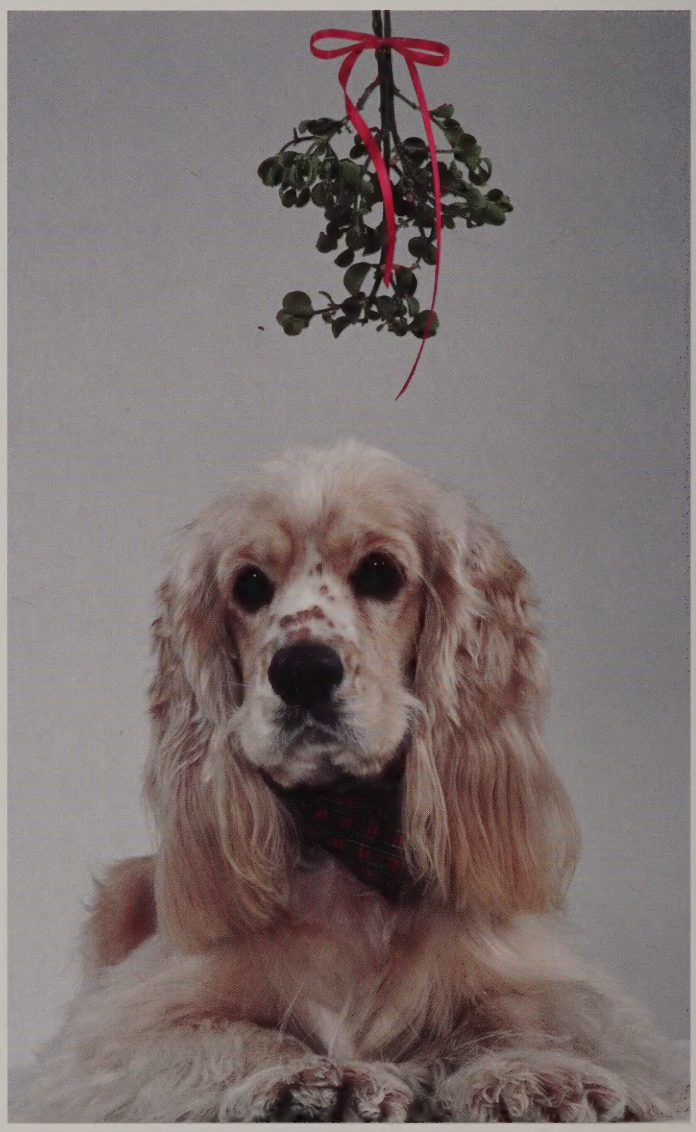
A list is ever growing
Of tasks to be performed
Just don't forget your animals
Make sure they're safe and warm

And if the dog's unruly
From too much time alone
Let it lightly go this once
And thrill him with a bone

Give comfort to your kitty too
Whose purr your stress allays
Return her trusted kinship
With affectionate displays

For as you fret on details
Of gifts you are arranging
Your animals stand softly by
With needs and love unchanging

Linda Kennedy
Animal Rescue League Volunteer



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P.O. Box 265 Boston, Massachusetts 02117

Address Correction Requested